NEWS — FEATURES

Middle schooler's fish lure business finds success at Fells Hardware

CHARLENE BAND | CONTRIBUTOR

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Andrew Drake, 12, shows how to make a spinner fish lure in a YouTube video. PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLENE BAND

Andrew Drake is a serious businessman. He's also 12.

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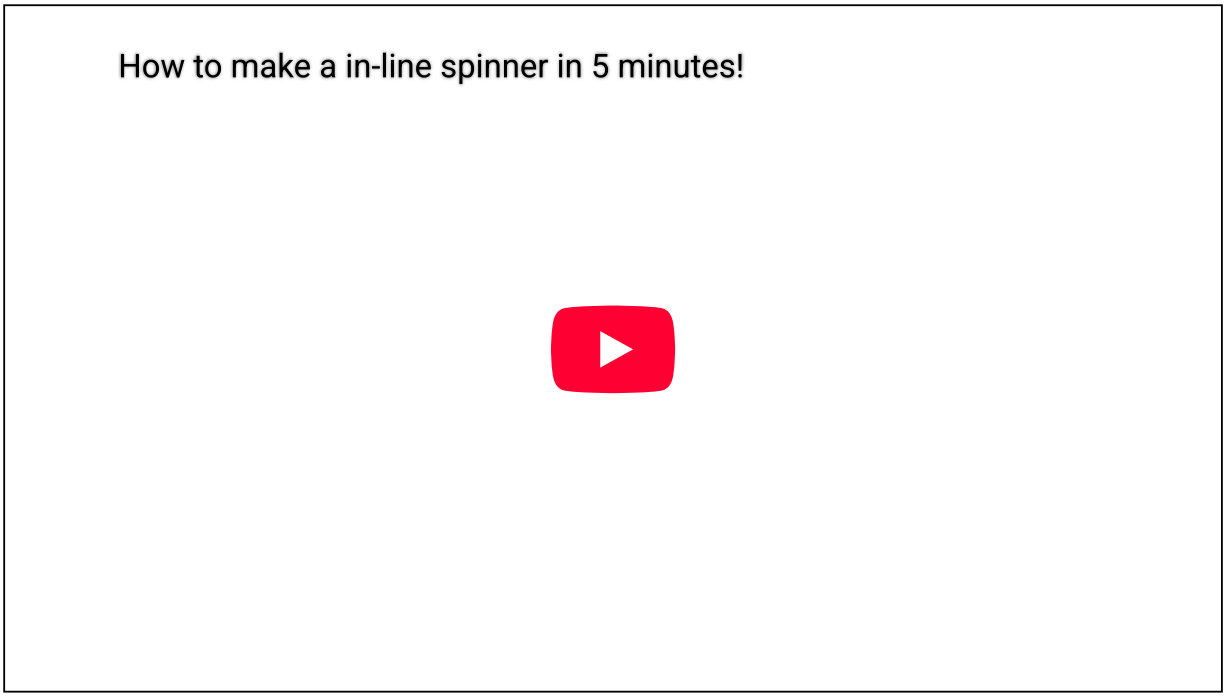
A middle-school student at McCall, Andrew has launched Wildwaters Spinner Baits fish lure business at Fells Hardware.

Fells owner Kevin Ryan says the lures are a great new product addition to his store because he has many customers who regularly fish.

The display board of Wildwaters Spinner Baits catches your eye as soon as you walk in the door at Fells. Andrew has a real passion for fishing. His grandfather and mother are avid fishermen and it came to him naturally.

This McCall Middle School student has won almost 20 awards for his work.

You might think that fishing is a low-cost sport, but it can be expensive. In Andrew's words, the price of good quality lures these days is "outrageous!"



Andrew Drake shares how to make spinner baits in five minutes in this video on YouTube.

But Andrew isn't the only one involved with Wildwaters. He's partnered with his 14-year-old sister Ellie, who is also a McCall student.

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Andrew designs and manufactures the spinner lures for catching bass, trout, sunfish and pickerel. He made it clear that he is serious about "catch and release" for environmental reasons. Ellie is the marketing "guru" and chief financial officer.

Andrew says his objective is to offer customers a high-quality product at an affordable price.

And he offers some advice for anyone looking for something new to do.

"Try fishing!" he advises. "It's a lot of fun and you'll love it!"

Wildwaters Spinner Bait sales are going very well and some have even been sold to a customer in Canada.

So what does Andrew do with his profits? At this point, it's pretty much breakeven due to the cost of supplies. He won't even consider raising the $2 price of his spinners. But his very modest profit does help pay for his $40 membership in Plum Island Surfcasters.

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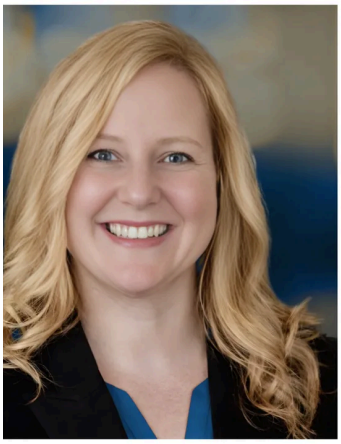

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Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for renters, buyers

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

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